

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00
ERDE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 NASA-02
ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02
DODE-00 EB-07 FEAЕ-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAЕ-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 NRC-07 /142 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4187
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG TECH UK PARM IAEA
SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN SPEECH ON NUCLEAR
NON-PROLIFERATION: PRESS REACTION

REF: LONDON 8309, LONDON 8334

1. INITIAL PRESS COVERAGE OF FONSEC OWEN'S SPEECH ON
NON-PROLIFERATION TENDED TO EMPHASIZE THE QUALIFIED
NATURE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF PRESI-
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DENT CARTER'S NUCLEAR POLICY PROPOSALS.

2. MAY 20 FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL "SAYING
NO TO MR. CARTER" CONTAINED THE MOST THOROUGHLY NEGATIVE
INTERPRETATION OF OWEN'S SPEECH. DAVID FISHLOCK STATED
THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WHILE COMMITTED TO NUCLEAR
NON-PROLIFERATION, IS NOT WILLING AT THIS STAGE TO

ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS FOR TIGHTER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL. OWEN WAS SAID TO HAVE OUTLINED A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS IN THE MOST DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE PROLIFERATION ISSUE YET MADE PUBLICLY BY HMG. THE FT EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT, HOWEVER DIPLOMATIC THE LANGUAGE, THE SPEECH IS A SUSTAINED CRITICISM OF THE CARTER PROPOSALS. OWEN PUT HIMSELF IN THE POSITION OF THE JUDGE WHO WISHES TO APPEAR OBJECTIVE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME LEAVING NO DOUBT AS TO WHAT HE THINKS THE VERDICT OUGHT TO BE. THE FT VOLUNTEERED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO YEARS SUBSEQUENT TO THE PRELIMINARY TWO MONTH STUDY IS REQUIRED SINCE MOST OF THE BEEN EVALUATED OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES. MOREOVER, IT HAS BEEN LEFT UNCERTAIN WHAT THOSE COUNTRIES ALREADY COMMITTED TO REPROCESSING AND FAST BREEDER PROGRAMS ARE EXPECTED TO DO WHILE THE EVALUATION TAKES PLACE. IF THERE IS ANY SUGGESTION THAT THEIR PROGRAMS BE SUSPENDED, IT SHOULD BE SQUASHED FORTHWITH. THERE IS NOT DOUBT THAT THE TREND OF DR. OWEN'S REMARKS YESTERDAY WAS IN THIS DIRECTION; HE MAY YET HAVE TO BE SOMEWHAT BLUNTER IF THIS MESSAGE IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD BY PRESIDENT CARTER.

3. THE LONDON TIMES REPORT NOTED THAT IN A FINELY JUDGED SPEECH, OWEN GAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO THE AIMS OF AMERICA'S NEW NUCLEAR POLICY, BUT REMAINED CAUTIOUS ON MODALITIES. THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE OBSERVED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PUT ON RECORD ITS DOUBTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS. THE GUARDIAN SIMPLY GAVE A STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT OF THE OWEN SPEECH.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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